

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Kindly amend the claims, without prejudice, without admission, without surrender of subject matter, and without any intention of creating any estoppel as to equivalents, as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A thick slab for covering a ground surface, wherein the slab it comprises at least a surface layer made of facing concrete, at least two sections (2, 3) separated by a deep groove (5) ending in a point to define a breaking line (7) allowing the slab to be divided along this breaking line to separate the two sections (2, 3) and obtain two slabs.
2. (Previously Presented) The slab as claimed in claim 1, wherein the thickness of the slab is greater than or equal to 35 millimeters and wherein the groove is between 6 and 10 millimeters deep.
3. (Currently Amended) The slab as claimed in claim 1, wherein the slab it comprises a square or rectangular overall shape, the length of whose sides is between 40 and 100 centimeters approximately, and which comprises between 2 and 4 dividable sections.
4. (Currently Amended) The slab as claimed in claim 3, wherein the slab it is overall square in shape with sides approximately 50 centimeters in length and comprises sections whose sides are between 20 and 50 centimeters in length.

5. (Currently Amended) A mold (20) for manufacturing a slab as claimed in claim 1, wherein the mold ~~it~~ comprises several sections (22, 23, 24), whose surfaces feature textures reproducing the texture of natural paving stones, the sections being separated by a high, pointed rib (25).

6. (Currently Amended) Process for manufacturing a slab as claimed in claim 1, comprising the following steps:

- a) placing of a mold for manufacturing a slab as claimed in claim 1, wherein the mold ~~it~~ comprises several sections, whose surfaces feature textures reproducing the texture of natural paving stones, the sections being separated by a high, pointed rib, in an automatic machine;
- b) filling of the mold with concrete, the bottom of the mold at least being filled with facing concrete;
- c) pressing of the slab and immediate demolding.

7. (Original) The process for manufacturing a slab as claimed in claim 6, wherein step b) comprises the following steps:

- filling of the mold with a first layer of facing concrete to a depth slightly greater than the height of the mold ribs;
- filling of the remaining volume of the mold with ordinary concrete.

8. (Currently Amended) A process for laying slabs, comprising which includes the step of dividing straightforwardly the slab division, as claimed in claim 1 prior to laying.

9. (Previously Presented) The process for laying slabs as claimed in claim 8, wherein

dividing is simply performed by striking the slab on the projecting edge of a hard surface or by striking the slab with a club hammer and a wide chisel.

10. (Currently Amended) The process for laying slabs as claimed in claim 8, comprising the step of introducing wherein a joint comprising polymer filler or cement mortar is introduced between the slab divided sections.

11. (Currently Amended) The process for laying slabs as claimed in claim 8, comprising the step of using wherein it uses an assortment of slabs -overall square with sides approximately 50 centimeters in length and comprising:

- a first approximately  $50 \times 30$  centimeter sized section, a second approximately  $30 \times 20$  centimeter sized section and a third approximately  $20 \times 20$  centimeter sized section; and/or
  - a first approximately  $50 \times 20$  centimeter sized section, a second approximately  $30 \times 30$  centimeter sized section and a third approximately  $30 \times 20$  centimeter sized section.